

Top US senators mull vote on
Libya pg 2

Upgrade your own internet
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Air Art Committee
introduced ... pg 8

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Friday, April 1, 2011

THE MORNING NEWS

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Florida whipped by high winds, tornado alert issued



MIAMI, Florida (AFP) - Strong winds whipped through central Florida yesterday, uprooting trees and knocking over street signs as

weather officials warned of possible tornadoes.

The fierce gusts hit an area from Tampa on the Gulf of Mexico to Atlantic coastal

cities of Melbourne and Palm Bay.

The National Weather Service urged residents to take precautions in the face of strong winds.

"Gusty winds of 45 to 55 miles per hour (70 to 80 kilometers per hour) can be expected, which can cause unsecured objects to blow around, snap tree limbs and cause power outages," the weather service said.

"Torrential rains will reduce visibility to near zero and will cause ponding of water on roadways."

A tornado watch was issued for several areas of Florida.

Kadhafi: West has started something it cannot control

TRIPOLI, Libya (AFP) - Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi warned yesterday that the West has started something in Libya which it cannot control, the state news agency JANA reported.

"They have started something dangerous, something

they cannot control. It will be out of their control no matter what methods of destruction they have at their disposal," Kadhafi said.

He was referring to the Western coalition led by Britain, France and the United States which launched a mili-

tary campaign against Libya on March 19 to enforce a UN no-fly zone and to protect civilians.

Kadhafi specifically addressed, without naming them, "the leaders who decided to launch a second Crusader war between Christians and Muslims across the Mediterranean sea," saying they must resign.

He accused those leaders of causing death and destruction and said: "It is they who have been stricken with madness."

"They want to impose their strength and have destroyed mutual interests between the Libyan people and their own people... They want to drag us back to mediaeval times," JANA quoted Kadhafi as saying.

"The solution is that they resign immediately and their people should find new leaders to replace them who will respect relations between peoples."

Several Western leaders have urged Kadhafi, who has been in power for more than four decades, to quit in the face of the deadly uprising against his iron-fisted rule.

The "Support Me Bureau" (Bureau Sostenemi) celebrates first Lustrum



ORANJESTAD -- Five years ago a new department dedicated to serving the needs of our children by providing guidance and support to kids in our community, was established. This department, Bureau Sostenemi (Support Me Bureau) is the first point of contact for anyone who suspects any sort of child abuse.

The problem of child abuse is a world wide dilemma and there are frequent lectures, workshops and seminars providing information concerning this dilemma and making us more aware of the problem. The number of requests and questions handled by this department has increased considerably over the years. With respect to specific figures, in 2006 there were 185 cases of child abuse, in 2007 that went up to 207, in 2008 it increased even more to 297 cases and in 2010 there were an astonishing 308 cases reported. Hence, there has been a steady increase in cases reported, notwithstanding the number of cases that are never disclosed for personal reasons.

One of the reasons that so many cases get reported to this department is due to its friendly approach and the confidence it radiates, where real help is offered and persons are shown the exact

steps to take when a case is presented.

Bureau Sostenemi works in consortium with other institutions involved in helping abuse victims. This department also functions as the main registration point where all reported cases are registered. With the data collected they then have a fairly accurate image of the problem with our children and young people and can develop a management structure to deal with the problem.

Bureau Sostenemi has a crucial role to fulfill, especially in view of the different aspects already mentioned. They are the institution which deals with the problem of child abuse and the one who provides the government with advice for their management of the problem giving the government the ability to deal with the problem at its roots.

Minister Winklaar-Hooyboer expresses her words of congratulations to the department and its employees, who undoubtedly are very important citizens of our community, especially as this relates to our children and young people. She indicated to the staff of Bureau Sostenemi on this first lustrum celebration... "your work is very valuable, admired and highly appreciated throughout the Aruban community."



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez (L) embraces his Bolivian counterpart Evo Morales as he speaks to journalists in El Locotal, 100 km (62 miles) east of Cochabamba March 31, 2011. Chavez is visiting Bolivia as part of a South American tour.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Top US senators mull vote on Libya



US Senator John Kerry

WASHINGTON (AFP) — With the US Congress sharply divided over military strikes in Libya, top senators worked Thursday on a measure formally authorizing the use of force against strongman Moamer Kadhafi's troops.

"We are already, in fact, beginning the work of drafting an appropriate resolution. Whether we will need it or not, we don't know," Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry said at a hearing on the crisis.

And Republican Senator John McCain said he was working with Kerry, Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, and independent Senator Joe Lieberman on a measure endorsing President Barack Obama's decision to use force.

The senators hoped to craft a resolution "that can receive an overwhelming vote in the Senate. It would not be a good signal, otherwise," Fox News Channel quoted McCain as saying at a press conference.

The move came as some lawmakers charged Obama overstepped his constitutional bounds by acting before securing formal approval from Congress for the operation, and calls to denounce or defund the operation.

The US Constitution reserves to congress the right to declare war, though US presidents have often deployed forces without first getting

lawmakers' explicit say-so, despite a 1973 law that aimed to curtail their ability to do so.

The War Powers Act allows the president to use force in response to an attack on the United States, its territories, or its armed forces, but calls for notifying congress within 48 hours and says US troops must start to withdraw 60 days later unless specifically authorized to remain by lawmakers.

Kerry said that Obama had notified congressional leaders March 21, meaning the 60-day mark would fall May 20, and asked Deputy Secretary of State Jim Steinberg whether US forces would still be involved by then.

"I think it's impossible to forecast anything of the sort with certainty," said Steinberg. "Obviously we'll have to have a continuing conversation not just at the 60-day point but all throughout to see how that evolves."

Kerry said that would be "relevant to our thinking as well as the formulation of any kind of resolution" and suggested that the decision to vote or not could turn on the level of involvement of US forces.

The exchange came as a group of lawmakers on the left-flank of Obama's Democratic party and opposed to the conflict wrote to Republican leaders of the House of Representatives requesting a formal vote on operations in Libya.

Ivory Coast's Gbagbo digs in as rival tightens noose

ABIDJAN (AFP) — Ivory Coast strongman Laurent Gbagbo, cornered in Abidjan by rival forces, faced being forcibly ousted Thursday as he missed a deadline set by recognised leader Alassane Ouattara to cede power.

The economic capital was on tenterhooks with residents fearing clashes as night fell and a 1900 GMT deadline set for Gbagbo to resign came and went.

After 10 years in power, and four months spent clinging to a presidency the world says he lost, Gbagbo, deserted by his army chief, police and generals, faced a final showdown as Ouattara's army encircled the capital.

"Laurent Gbagbo must step down to avoid a blood-bath. Hopefully he will or we will go and fetch him," Ouattara's prime minister Guillaume Soro told AFP in a telephone interview from Yamoussoukro.

As the deadline passed the situation remained unclear, with Gbagbo expected to address the nation on state television and Ouattara's camp announced a curfew each night from 2100 to 0600 GMT through Sunday.

The United States called on Gbagbo to accept the ultimatum, saying it was awaiting to hear whether he will address the nation.

"We are looking forward to him taking an action that is in the best interests of the people of Cote D'Ivoire by avoiding war and stepping down and honoring the results of the election," a White House spokesman said using the country's French name.

As Gbagbo's regime ap-

peared to crumble, UN peacekeepers took over the airport and Ouattara urged soldiers to join his army.

Gbagbo's army chief and key ally General Philippe Mangou fled to the South African ambassador's residence with his wife and five children, and a UN envoy reported police and gendarmes had deserted the embattled leader.

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Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111
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CEO

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Minister Oduber proposes retirement pension plan for all taxi drivers

ORANJESTAD -- On Tuesday, Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, met with the local taxi drivers association to discuss various issues of interest. One point brought forward is the proposal of the minister to investigate the possibility of introducing a pension plan for taxi drivers, which was well accepted among all those present.

Taxi drivers work practically 7 days a week with no fixed schedule, for many years, and they have no customized and appropriate retirement pension plan.

This is the reason why Minister Oduber came forward with this proposal as he feels they contribute greatly in the development of our tourism industry.

In the coming weeks there will be more meetings with information regarding the pension.

SEROE B LANCO -- During a recent press conference SETAR's marketing executive, Arthur Ruiz in charge of the Internet Speed Increase Project, explained that all SETAR's DSL or Cablenet clients now have the possibility for increasing their internet speed online.

Ruiz explained that "the reason for choosing to have clients upgrade online is so that we can provide our clients with more services in the future. This is also one way to encourage our clients to use the internet which is safe and saves time and is available 24/7." All clients with DSL or Cablenet service who wishes to upgrade their internet speed may do so online at www.setar.aw. Those with DSL service are directed to upgrade through the eCuenta application format and clients with Cablenet service should use the Cable Anytime application format. Anyone who does not have these services must apply for them in order to do the upgrade.

According to the SETAR executive, the good news about this service is that one can double his internet speed for the small charge of Afls.19 monthly as an add-on to his current DSL or Cablenet package. The increased speed is especially beneficial to those who use the internet for games, and for domestic camera security. When the client chooses the upgrade online he will be entitled to 3 extra email addresses each with a storage limit of 7GB.

Mr. Ruiz also explained that increasing your internet speed will depend on several factors, such as: type of modem, your distance from

the SETAR central station, your interior installation and exterior installation.

The upgrade will be activated automatically once the client has registered and has submitted the online form to SETAR. The client will be notified by SETAR by email that the upgrade has been successful and within three days will be operational. There will be those who may have to change their modem due to the fact that it may not be compatible with the new speed. While there may be others who for technical reasons may not attain the higher speed. For those clients SETAR will find a technical solution to solve that problem.

All relevant information is available online via the eCuenta link. The system will guide you through the online



Arthur Ruiz

upgrade process.

Those who do not have a SETAR eCuenta or the Cable Anytime service, will have to first apply for these as this is a prerequisite for the online upgrade service. To apply you will have to present three recent SETAR invoices at one of SETAR's outlets.



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ProGraphics! Special Olympics

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Aruba's Special Olympics Committee is struggling to raise the funds needed to send a delegation to this summer's world games in Greece, starting at the end of June. Every four years, this is a huge financial hurdle the foundation must overcome, so the mentally challenged can participate in this international event. Aruba's special athletes have an admirable track record at the international games, returning each time with medals; the last participation in Shanghai, China in 2007 resulted in 5 gold, 4 silver and 14 bronze medals won by our delegation. This year, The Casino at the Radisson Resort is proud to be a principal sponsor of this worthy cause, and tonight will open a month-long campaign of fundraising events and promotions dedicated to sending them on their way to Athens.

A donation box can be found in the players' area where guests can deposit left-

over chips and spare change; there will be a nightly raffle at 11:00 PM for \$100 in non-redeemable chips, raffle tickets are sold at the cashier cage for \$5. Tonight, The Casino will conduct an April Fools' Day Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament, with new games beginning throughout the evening, as of 5:00 PM. Buy-in is \$150 for \$6,000 in chips, which goes towards the purse, but all re-buys through the third round will be donated to the Special Olympics Aruba Foundation. Re-buys cost \$100, which awards \$3,000 in chips. First place winner will take home 40% of the prize money, 2nd place 25%, and third and fourth place will also walk out with cash in hand. Entry free includes premium drinks and snacks.

Come play this popular and exciting game while contributing to the community, so as they say at the Special Olympics, "We are all winners!"

Tears and a fond farewell for cast members of Zissles



A fond farewell to a fab 4



Adieu Dana

It was an exuberant but bitter-sweet show at Zissles on Wednesday evening for four members of the D'Licious troupe who danced their hearts out in a final farewell performance before boarding a plane back to Holland yesterday.

There were tears all around as lead performers Jasper and Gitty introduced their four departing cast members, Riquel, Laura, Fay



a tearful goodbye from Laura

and Dana to the audience, which joined them on the stage for a group hug and a massive farewell cake provided by Zissles' owner Ingrid.

The talented young dancers made many a memorable evening for Zissles patrons. New and enthusiastic replacements have already arrived and been rehearsing with the troupe; producers of



Riquel was sure to always keep them laughing

the D'Licious show report they are tweaking the program with some new numbers, and will unveil the changes in about a week.

A fond farewell to some of the crazy crew of one of the most exciting and entertaining shows Aruba's has ever had to offer. Zissles' management and all their fans wish them well in their new ventures!

by Rosalie Klein



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Sci-Tech

Wind power in Spain reaches historic high



MADRID (AFP) – Wind power became Spain's main source of electricity for the first time ever this month, in a country renowned for its focus on renewable energy, the power-generating authority REE said Thursday.

"Wind farms accounted for 21 percent of demand and reached a monthly record," 5.0 percent more than in March 2010, it said in a state-

ment.

Overall, renewable energy provided 42.2 percent of electricity demand, a figure that was down 48.5 percent in March 2010, REE said.

Hydro energy accounted for 17.3 percent during the month, solar energy 2.6 percent, nuclear 19 percent and coal-powered electricity 12.9 percent.

"With wind energy pro-

duction in March, we could cover the monthly electricity consumption of a country the size of Portugal," the country's association of wind farms, AEE, said in a statement.

"This historic milestone reached by wind energy shows that this energy source, as well as being indigenous, clean and increasingly competitive, is also capable of providing three million Spanish households," said AEE president Jose Donoso.

AEE said the growth in wind energy was "the main reason why 2010 was the first year in which Spain was a (net) exporter of electricity along with France."

Spain was the fourth largest producer of wind energy in 2009 due to the government's policy of supporting the sector in recent years.

Argentine polo pony breeding boosted by biotech

LINCOLN, Argentina (AFP) – Argentina is vastly expanding its breeding of its world class polo ponies thanks to the use of embryo transfers that help breeders get the most from their top-performing mares and stallions.

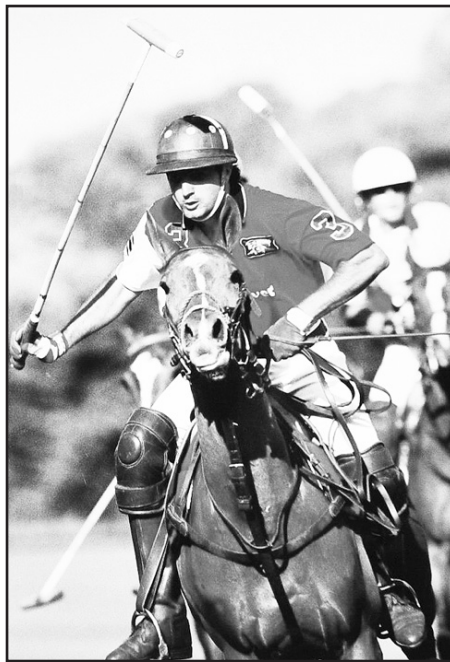
The new biotechnology technique has helped increase the number of breeders of polo ponies in the South American nation from 350 in 2001 to 630 today, and has boosted exports of the Polo Argentino horses fourfold between 2006 and 2010, according to the consultancy Unicorn SA.

What is revolutionizing breeding is the use of surrogate mares -- which don't have to be polo ponies.

The technique is relatively simple: the stallion's sperm is used to inseminate the mare. Seven days after the egg is fertilized, the embryo is taken out and transplanted into the uterus of the surrogate mare, which then carries the foal to term.

This allows the top-notch mares, which normally can only give birth to eight foals in a lifetime as the gestation period in horses is 11 months, to produce 30 to 40 babies, or five to 12 annually.

In another benefit, the natural mothers don't have to interrupt their polo activities while the surrogates are car-



rying their offspring. Pregnant mares can only be safely ridden for the first six months of the pregnancy.

"What the breeders are buying from us is time," said Fernando Riera, owner of the Dona Pilar Centre for Equine Reproduction in Lincoln, some 300 kilometers (200 miles) west of Buenos Aires on the Argentina pampas.

The procedure -- which is also used in the rarified worlds of champion horse-racing and show-jumping -- allows breeders to cross the best pedigrees and boost their chances of obtaining a winner.

The result can look a bit

strange.

But he denied this was messing with the natural order of things to create new super horses, saying "we are just helping things along."

At the Argentine Open Polo Championships in Palermo, the biggest event in the sport, "more than half of the horses are from (transplanted) embryos," says Riera, who was trained in the technique in the United States.

He said in some cases, the mares play in the same matches alongside their offspring.

At the La Martona Club de Campo some 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Buenos Aires, Inge Schwenger and her son Helge were on a visit to buy polo ponies for her club near Berlin.

"For a horse of the same quality, we would pay a lot more in Germany," said Helge Schwenger, adding the cost was still lower even if the buyer has to pay to fly a pony back to Europe.

"It's good business for us to have these Argentine polo ponies," said Inge Schwenger, who bought a horse named Primavera (Spring) for \$8,000. "People are attracted by the quality of the horses."





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Microsoft declares war on Google in EU anti-trust complaint

BRUSSELS (AFP) – US computer giant Microsoft declared war on Internet king Google Thursday when it joined officially an anti-trust complaint in Europe that could result in billions of dollars in fines.

It is the first time Microsoft, which was itself hit with eight-figure fines during a decade of Brussels anti-trust action along with US chip-maker Intel, has gone public with submissions to European Union inspectors probing the online search giant.

"Microsoft is filing a formal complaint with the European Commission as part of the Commission's ongoing investigation into whether Google has violated European competition law," read an online posting from Brad Smith, senior vice president and general counsel, Microsoft Corporation.

The move heightens the intensity of the probe against Google launched by EU regulators end November, amid

accusations it rigged the search market for consumers.

EU competition watchdogs are investigating whether Google is guilty of "unfavourable treatment" of rival search services providers and whether the company's own services -- including YouTube video, book-scanning or telephony -- are getting "preferential placement" in consumer queries.

The Commission has "taken note" of the complaint and will ask Google for a response, said Amelia Torres, spokeswoman for EU competition commissioner Joaquin Almunia.

Asked to comment, Google said the action was hardly surprising given a Microsoft subsidiary was one of the original complainants in the probe.

"For our part, we continue to discuss the case with the European Commission and we're happy to explain to anyone how our business works," said Google spokesman Al Verney.

Google's citizen cartographers map out the world

SINGAPORE (AFP) – Google on Thursday revealed that an army of citizen cartographers is behind its widely used mapping service, helping the Internet search giant chart the world, including often inaccessible places.

Volunteers from various countries post updates on their neighbourhoods or travel to remote places to map the area before uploading their findings to Google Map Maker, the company said at a conference in Singapore.

Contributors can add new roads and landmarks or debate with neighbours about the names of streets on the virtual map, which is constantly updated with new information.

Google Map Maker allows people to add or edit features, such as roads, businesses, parks and schools, and give detailed information about the locations.

"You are now the mapping agency of the world, and many of the mapping agencies are recognising that fact," Google's geospatial technologist Ed Parsons said at the Google Geo Community Summit attended by contributors from different countries.

"The large, top-down approaches to making maps that traditionally the industry has followed for many thousands of years are changing very rapidly," he added.

"They now go from a bottom-up approach, where local experts, people like yourselves are making maps, they are updating the maps, because you are the experts in your local neighbourhoods."

Parsons said Google maps have been used extensively to help relief efforts during natural disasters such as in the recent earthquake and tsunami that struck northeastern Japan on March 11.



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Health & Living

After 30 years, war on AIDS at 'moment of truth'



NAIROBI, Africa (AFP) — With the war on AIDS nearing its 30th anniversary, the UN on Thursday declared "a moment of truth" had come for new strategies to address the campaign's failures and brake costs that were now unsustainable.

"We have a unique opportunity to take stock of the progress and to critically and honestly assess the barriers that keep us shackled to a reality in which the epidemic con-

tinues to outpace the response," UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in a report issued in Nairobi.

The 30th anniversary of AIDS is generally recognised as June 5.

It marks the date in 1981 when US epidemiologists reported on mysterious cases of fatal pneumonia among young gays. In 1983, French scientists pinned the cause on a new pathogen, the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which destroyed the immune system in heterosexuals and homosexuals alike.

"AIDS has claimed more than 25 million lives and more than 60 million people have become infected with HIV," Ban said in his progress report on the disease.

"Each day, more than 7,000 people are newly infected with the virus, including 1,000 children. No country has escaped

the devastation of this truly global epidemic."

Ban said there had been many pluses over the past three decades, notably getting AIDS drugs to more than six million badly-infected people in poor countries.

But at this point, "the HIV response faces a moment of truth," he said.

Among the problems he highlighted was "a wholly unsustainable" rise in costs and a flatlining in resources, which have remained at under 16 billion dollars a year since late 2007.

More and more people are becoming infected, which means they will eventually join the numbers of patients who eventually need AIDS drugs, a treatment that has to be taken daily for the rest of one's life.

Ban spelt out ways by which countries could meet a target set last December 1 on World AIDS Day, of "zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths" by 2015.

Approaches should include new methods that have been validated by science, such as the use of male circumcision, which reduces the risk of female-to-male infection by around 60 percent. In the past two years, more than 200,000 men have been circumcised in 13 countries with a high prevalence of the HIV.

In the pipeline are promising trials involving a vaginal microbicide, to help women fend off HIV infection, and the use of AIDS drugs as a prevention against the virus, rather than treatment for it.

Both initiatives fell short of their mark although the UN says they generated momentum, especially in building medical infrastructure in poor countries.

US: 'miniscule' radiation in milk after Japan tragedy

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A "minuscule" amount of radiation from iodine-131 was detected in a sample of milk that was tested from the US northwest, US authorities said.

"These findings are a minuscule amount compared to what people experience every day. For example, a person would be exposed to low levels of radiation on a round trip cross country flight, watching television, and even from construction materials," said Patricia Hansen, an senior scientist at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

She was referring to results from a cow's milk sample taken March 25 from Spokane, Washington; it found 0.8 pCi/L of iodine-131, "which is more than 5,000 times lower than the Derived Intervention Level set by the US Food and Drug Administration," an FDA statement said.

The agency said that it had boosted monitoring "of milk, precipitation, drinking water, and other potential exposure routes ... in response to the ongoing situation in Japan."

Radiation from the plant northeast of Tokyo has wafted into the air, contaminating farm produce and drinking water, and seeped into the Pacific Ocean.

HEALTHTIPS:

Menstruation: Preparing your preteen for her period

Wonder how to introduce the subject of menstruation? What to tell your daughter about periods? How to ease her anxiety? Here's help covering the bases.

-Talk early and often

If your daughter asks questions about menstruation, answer them openly and honestly. Provide as many details as you think she needs at the time.

-How to start talking

To introduce the subject of menstruation, you might ask your daughter what she knows about puberty. Clarify any misinformation and ask what questions she might have.

***What is menstruation?** Menstruation means a girl's body is physically capable of becoming pregnant.

***Does it hurt?** Many girls have cramps, typically in the lower abdomen, when their periods begin.

***When will it happen?** No one can tell exactly when a girl will get her first period. Typically, however, girls begin menstruating about two years after their breasts begin to develop

***What should I do?** Explain how to use sanitary pads or tampons. Many girls are more comfortable starting with pads, but it's OK to use tampons right away. Remind your daughter that it may take some practice to get used to inserting tampons.

***What if I'm at school?** Encourage your daughter to carry a few pads or tampons in her backpack or purse, just in case.

***Will everyone know that I have my period?** Assure your daughter that pads and tampons aren't visible through clothing.

***What if blood leaks onto my pants?** Offer your daughter practical suggestions for covering up stains until she's able to change clothes, such as tying a sweatshirt around her waist. You might also encourage your daughter to wear dark pants or shorts when she has her period, just in case.

Schedule a medical checkup for your daughter if:

- Her periods last more than seven days
- She has menstrual cramps that aren't relieved by over-the-counter medications
- She's soaking more pads or tampons than usual
- She's missing school or other activities because of painful or heavy periods
- She goes three months without a period or suspects she may be pregnant
- She hasn't started menstruating by age 15



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Air Art Committee introduced to islanders



Myrna Jansen, Peter Steinmetz and Minister Dowers

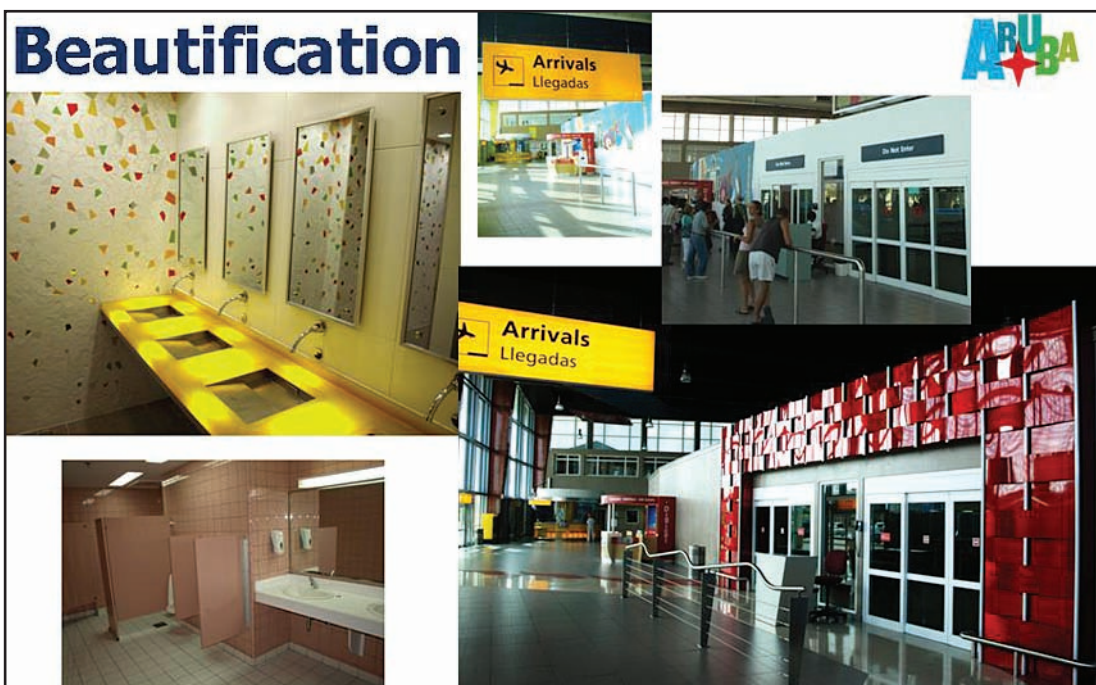


Air Art Committee Chairperson Claudia Ruiz Vasquez and advising artist Stan Kuiperi

As the Reina Beatrix International Airport approaches completion of all renovations, management announced they have now moved into the full

beautification stage, for which they have appointed a committee of island artists and art experts to create.

Aruba Airport Authority



CEO Peter Steinmetz introduced AIR ART Committee Chairperson, Claudia Ruiz-Vasquez, designer and owner of Arte Sano Design Studio and design overseer to the AAA. Claudia stated that AIR ART project is a long time dream come true for her and fellow committee member Stan Kuiperi, renowned artist, teacher and Cultural Policy Advisor, Ministry of General Affairs. The beautification will showcase many of Aruba's remarkably talented artists, thus providing visitors and insight into island culture and identity and enhancing their Aruba experience from the moment of arrival and during their departure.

Other members of AIR ART include:

- Ciro Abath, visual artist;
- Myrna Jansen-Feliciano, senior tourism advisor to the Minister of Tourism;
- Adi Martis, associate professor emeritus of history of art and art curator;

The charter of the AIR-ART Committee is to advise the AAA on the implementation of art projects at selected, publicly accessible places at the Queen Beatrix International Airport; the definition of themes and the general design of the art forms and the eventual selection of individual art works to be displayed within the concepts as defined by and agreed with the AAA Management. Expositions will be per-

Beautification

Walkway and Restaurant/Shops for airport workers



manent, rotating and temporary and the works may be purchased, lent, leased or donated.

A sculpture garden fronting the U.S. departure entrance is expected to be completed by the end of 2011. It will also provide a lovely place to relax and reflect before boarding and it is planned to conduct events and school tours to the airport so island residence will enjoy the facility equally.

For each project, artists representing a diversity of styles ranging from traditional to experimental art forms and working in various scale and media are encouraged to apply. The diversity of artists with regard to ethnic and cultural identities, gender, age, etc. will be taken into account. It is planned for displays to include a balance of local artists; resident and Aruban artists living abroad. The Committee will be acting in an advisory role with regard to decision making and contractual relationships; both

will remain the prerogative of AAA management.

"The Air Art Committee perfectly matches the airport's ambition to become a leading airport in the Caribbean for passengers and an architectural and cultural icon for the people of Aruba. The concept is a 'product' that can be confidently labeled: 'Made in Aruba'." stated Mr. Steinmetz. "The vision of the Air Art Committee is to promote, stimulate and guide the context of the art displayed at AAA's public areas. Its goal is threefold:

- to showcase the diversity and essence of the Aruba's culture and Aruban artists through Visual Arts;
- promote the beauty of the island through the artwork
- enrich and humanize the airport environment through photography, sculpture, painting, drawing, film/video, ceramic, installations and mixed media.

by Rosalie Klein

Extra opening of exhibition "Waldy Simson 20 años de arte"



The success of the exhibition "Waldy Simson 20 años de arte" has made that the board of Directors of Cas di Cultura, UNOCA and Waldy Simson decided to extend it, giving the public the possibility to still visit this rich and varied event. The exhibition is open to the public on Sunday, April 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

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TOTO

Tootsie is on the look-out for friends and family members



We would like to introduce Tootsie to you, one of the donkeys living at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. She was found wandering on a busy road and it is a wonder that she did not get killed. She was walking in the vicinity of the Jamanota together with Rambo and Kidsy. Once inside the sanctuary, Tootsie appeared to be pregnant. A donkey carries for 11 to 14 months and Tootsie took the full 14 months to carry her Boefie: a wonderful, beautiful donkey boy. During her last month of pregnancy, the volunteers expected her to start labor every day, but she did not. There is a separate enclosure where moms with their

newborns are kept and it is a joyful sight to see them all together, frolicking in the sunshine. Soon Boefie and his mom will be put with the other donkeys; that is always quite a significant moment, because the other donkeys need to accept the two 'newcomers'. The volunteers always watch this process with bated breath.

Tootsie has a chip, just like the other donkeys. This way she can be recognized and all her medical information is on it. All the donkeys at the sanctuary are well-cared for: they get their food and drink and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers. The volunteers try

to cover the cost through organizing all kinds of activities and by selling nice souvenirs in the store. Fortunately there are visitors who adopt a donkey now and then, who donate money or who buy something in the store. They help keep the sanctuary afloat that way.

The volunteers are now looking for people who wish to adopt Tootsie. She will stay at the sanctuary, of course; the only thing that is needed is that AWG. 30,- per month is paid for her keep. In this way you help support this wonderful donkey as well as the sanctuary. You will receive a nice document and a super T-shirt. And if you like, your name and photo will be posted on our website. The sanctuary is open on weekdays from 9 – 4 p.m. and in the weekends from 10 – 3 p.m.; visitors are very welcome. The sanctuary is also a great place to drink cup of coffee or a juice or eat an ice cream.

Please call the Donkey Sanctuary at 593 2933 and become Tootsie's new family member; you can also register as an adoptive parent via our website www.arubandonkey.org. or deposit a donation on our Aruba Bank account 40.03.025.

Please help!

Ex Prime Minister Don Martina visits Santa Rosa



Recently Curacao Prime Minister Don Martina paid a courtesy visit to Management team of the Department of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fisheries Santa Rosa. He was accompanied by well known Curacao businessmen and farmers, Mr. Wendell Alberto and Mr. Richard Alberto.

Management team member Mr. Tilo Damian welcomed the delegation and gave them an extensive tour of the Santa Rosa premises pointing out recent changes. Afterwards, Mrs. Nathalie Maduro gave them a thorough explanation on the different projects to take place and plans Minister Oduber has for the department; innovative and sustainable projects with positive results for agriculture and a sustainable food supply for our community.

Mr. Martina, who is a representative of TAS, (Tera, Awa Simiya) – Soil, Water and Seed - has similar plans for Curacao regarding agriculture including the introduction of greenhouses which guarantees high quality local produce for islanders, which he believes is a priority. He came to Aruba to see firsthand our most recent projects which are already bears fruit, resulting in various types of produce now being sold at local supermarkets. Santa Rosa also has explored hydroponics, with very positive results.

Mrs. Maduro elaborated on the Permaculture system and why the Santa Rosa management team has chosen this to motivate local farmers; admittedly a rather expensive system, but effective. Mr. Martina was very impressed with this new system and it is hoped that he will grace us with his presence during Santa Rosa's upcoming Permaculture event, which will take place April 11 to 16. Santa Rosa will be workshops on sustainable organic agriculture which are free of charge and open to all.

For more information on the Permaculture fair 2011 contact Mrs. Maduro at Santa Rosa, tel. 585-5102.

"Be proud of your culture, practice agriculture, husbandry and fishery."



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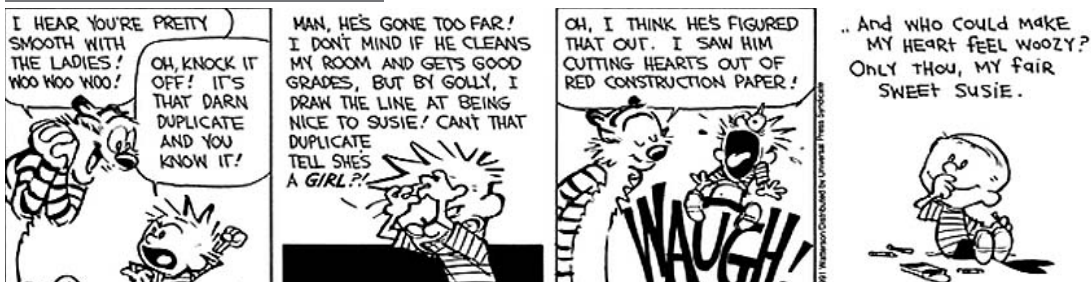
MOMMA



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CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Explosive trio
4. British beverage
7. Closet insect
11. "Oops!" (hyph.)
13. Rainy mo.
14. Jai ____
15. Sailors' saint
16. Vandalize
17. Destitution
18. Best on a team (abbr.)
20. School subject (abbr.)
22. Fundamentals
25. Dwelling
28. Become a contestant
29. Heston's gp.
30. Swiss peak
32. Slightly open
33. Fathers
34. Like Satan
35. French for "king"
36. Painting, e.g.
37. Strike, Bible-style
38. Undo
40. Transferred ownership
41. Circle part
42. Always, poetically
43. "____ Wanna Do" (2 wds.)
46. Above, to a bard
48. FBI agents

(hyph.)

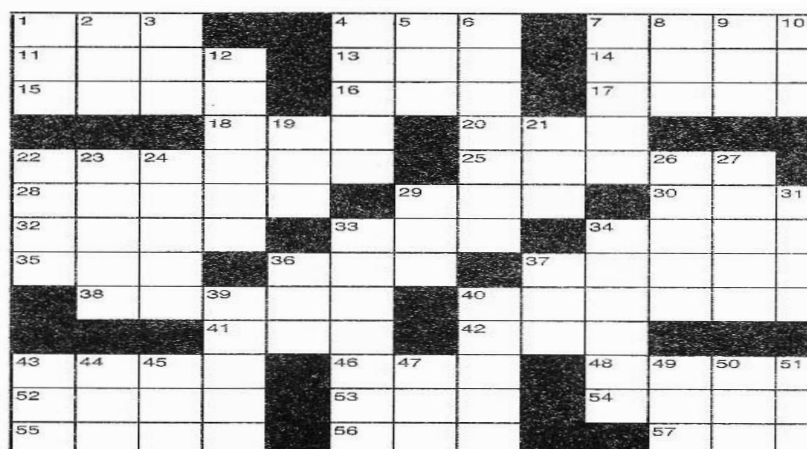
52. Baby horse
53. Heavenly body
54. Comics' Kett
55. Clothes
56. Piano part
57. Soccer mom's transport

DOWN

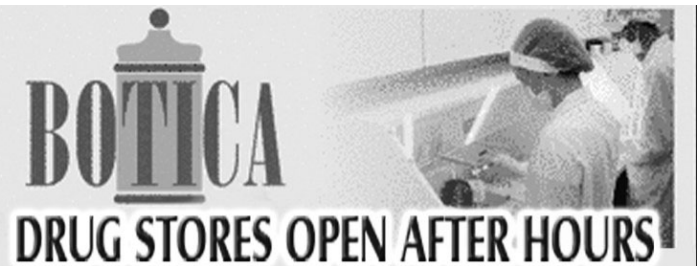
1. Mon. follower
2. Hockey org.
3. News legend
4. Prepares a pipe
5. Environmental agcy.
6. Overdue and unpaid debts

7. Exotic fruit
8. Bullfight cry
9. Edison's inits.
10. Secreted
12. Cozier
19. TV taping machine
21. Basketball gp.
22. ____ hug
23. Certain pear
24. Soiled spot
26. Goliath's slayer
27. Special group
29. Natalie Cole's dad
31. Entreated
33. Boil before barbecuing
34. Come out into view
36. ____ mail

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C.V. TAS
587-1998, 587-5900

In Oranjestad:

Tel. 582-2116, 582-1604
582-5447

In San Nicolas

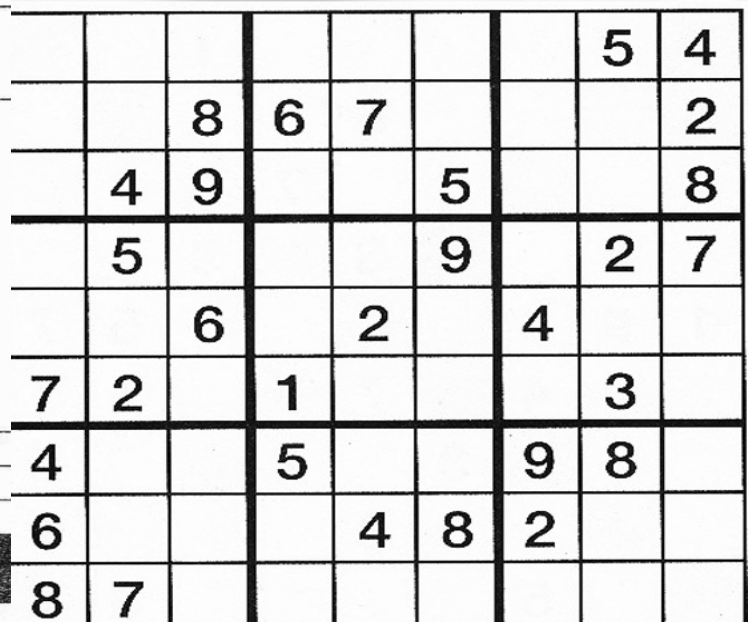
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

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1	2	8	7	8	9	6	9	
8	8	6	2	9	5	2	1	7
6	8	8	9	9	1	7	2	2
9	1	7	8	2	2	9	8	6
2	2	9	6	8	7	1	5	8
8	9	2	9	8	2	6	7	1
2	6	1	7	2	9	8	8	9
4	9	8	1	6	8	2	9	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

Ireland orders banking overhaul as bailout tops 70 bn euros

DUBLIN (AFP) – Ireland's central bank on Thursday ordered a drastic overhaul of the eurozone nation's stricken banking sector as the cost of bailing out its lenders was set to top 70 billion euros (\$99 billion).

The Central Bank of Ireland said in a statement that four lenders needed to raise an extra 24 billion euros after it carried out vital stress tests on their ability to withstand another financial crisis.

The additional capital would be covered by the 35 billion euros provided for the banks as part of Ireland's huge 85-billion-euro debt rescue agreed in November with the European Union and the International Monetary Fund.

The shake-up of the banking sector comes at a key stage in the eurozone debt crisis as fears mount that fellow eurozone member Portugal could be next for an international bailout, following Greece and Ireland last year.

The central bank also decided to merge two recently nationalised lenders -- Allied Irish Banks (AIB) and the Educational Building Society (EBS), and indicated it would likely have to take a majority stake in Irish Life & Permanent.

IL&P has also been ordered to sell its lucrative pensions division Irish Life while Bank of Ireland (BoI) will be forced to sell assets worth 30

billion euros by 2013.

"Collectively the four banks will be required to raise 24 billion euros in capital," the central bank said in a statement.

Ireland has already pumped 46.3 billion euros into its battered banking sector and nationalised four financial institutions since the global financial crisis erupted in 2008.

Irish Finance Minister Michael Noonan said the new coalition government would seek to radically overhaul the nation's banking landscape -- leaving just two main "pillar" banks, the BoI and the merged AIB/EBS.

"Both government parties have consistently stated that the Irish banking system needs to be reduced to a size appropriate to our economy," Noonan told parliament on Thursday.

The central bank added in its Financial Measures Programme report covering the stress tests that the four lenders would be required to run down and dispose of certain non-core assets.

Anglo Irish on Thursday posted a loss of 17.7 billion euros for 2010, a record annual loss for an Irish company.

The central bank assessments are separate from Europe-wide stress tests being conducted by the European Banking Authority whose results are due in June.

African-Americans worse off in 2011: study

WASHINGTON, (AFP) – African-Americans are worse off and have less access to health care than white Americans this year compared to 2010, an annual report released Thursday said.

In the 35th annual "State of Black America" report, the National Urban League (NUL) said blacks have slid down on an "equality index" on issues ranging from income, homeownership, access to loans and health insurance, and education.

Black America fell to 71.5 percent on the equality index in 2011 compared to 72.1 percent last year, largely because of the slumping US economy, the NUL said.

"We have seen growing inequality in the poverty rate, the homeownership rate, educational attainment... and school



enrollment rates," since the equality index was added to the annual report in 2005, the NUL said.

Blacks still earn less than whites and are less likely to own their own home, the report says.

In fact, the only areas in which the inequalities between the two groups have narrowed are negative issues such as unemployment, lack of health insurance and the incarceration rate.

That "reflects a worsened condition for the population in general" as the United States tries to pull out of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression in the 1930s, NUL president Marc Morial said.

"With every downturn in the economy, urban and minority communities fall further and further behind," he said.

For the second year, the report also gave Hispanics their own equality index rating, which rose slightly compared to last year -- from 76.6 percent to 76.8 percent.

But overall, Latinos still lag far behind their white American counterparts in terms of wealth, education, health and justice, with the equality gap growing in the areas of loan access and college enrollment, the report said.

France, US call for flexible exchange rates at G20



NANJING, China (AFP) – French President Nicolas Sarkozy and US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner on Thursday called for more flexible exchange rate regimes as G20 nations met on global monetary reform in China.

The pair, speaking at the start of a day of talks in the eastern city of Nanjing, also called for a widening of the basket of currencies underlying the IMF's international reserve asset, while keeping the dollar and euro stable.

The West wants to see the yuan become part of the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket as part of its efforts to prod Beijing into

opening up its tightly managed and controversial currency regime.

"It's clear we must move towards a more flexible exchange rate system that would

allow the world to absorb shocks. But this system cannot evolve without rules, coordination and oversight, or instability will prevail," Sarkozy said.

Geithner echoed his comments, saying the gap between flexible and managed exchange rate policies -- and the problems such a divide creates -- was "the most important problem to solve in the international monetary system today".

"This asymmetry in exchange rate policies creates a lot of tension," Geithner said, noting that it "magnifies upward pressure" in emerging markets with flexible exchange rates and "intensifies

inflation risk in those emerging economies with undervalued exchange rates" -- a clear reference to China.

The seminar -- bringing together ministers and central bankers from the world's leading economies, as well as a select group of academics -- was organised by France, which holds the Group of 20's rotating presidency.

French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde hailed the meeting as a "real success" and said participants had agreed on the need to expand the role of the IMF to monitor global economic imbalances.

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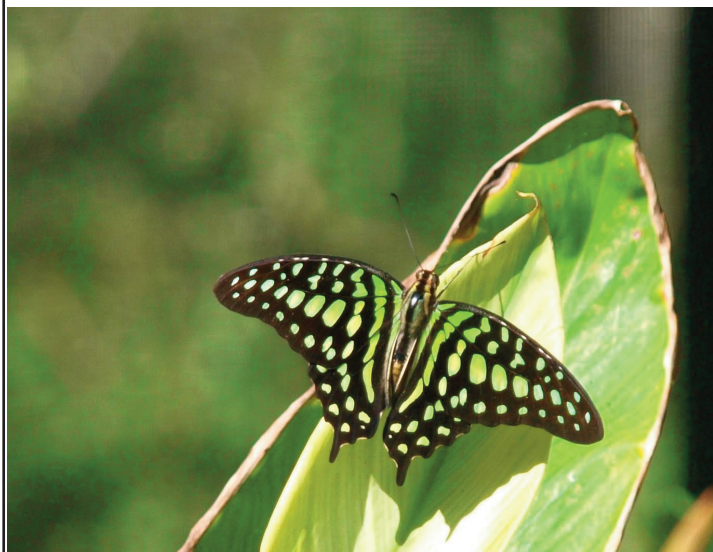
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A	S	P	I	R	S	A	L	T	O
P	E	R	L	O	O	K	P	O	O
E	T	E	I	D	L	E	P	A	R
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N	E	O	T	E	A				
D	O	R	A	F	O	L	L	O	S
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F	E	N	C	E	R	O	L	D	E
L	U	A	U	E	L	B	A	R	I
A	R	I	S	E	Y	E	D	R	P
B	O	L	T	E	S	E	S	E	W

Aruba Butterfly Farm - as fascinating as ever



Among Aruba's many repeat visitors you will find that those in the know are dedicated fans of the Butterfly Farm located between The Westin Aruba and Divi Phoenix Resorts in Palm Beach. Aruba's most unusual attraction is an absolute delight and your first visit will convert you to a butterfly fanatic as well.

A setting of tropical flowers and classical music is the perfect backdrop to observe nature's magnificent artistry in action. Open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. with tours conducted every half hour throughout the day - the last at 4:00 p.m. - the

Butterfly Farm is educational and enlightening, as well. It is the perfect place to enjoy these brilliant hues wonders of nature. The purchase of a ticket at the beginning of your stay allows unlimited return visits until departure.

The staff kindly provides a guide to identify the various exotic species from around the world and there are at least 200 butterflies fluttering around, drinking nectar, or relaxing in the shade.

The farm also imports pupae, so often you can see the butterflies breaking out of their chrysalis or perhaps the largest such creature, the Atlas Moth, fresh from its cocoon. This amazing insect lives only five days, so be on the lookout for this rare treat!

Aside from the inventory of live butterflies, the farm houses a gift shop which boasts the largest collection of butterfly souvenirs, jewelry and knick-knacks to be gathered in one place. If you are a fan of anything with butterflies, you are bound to find a beautiful memento of your visit, or a treasured gift.

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline

pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or

cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge ser-



a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with

vices to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoast-aruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Fantastic Gardens Honoring Aruba and its 25 Years of Status Aparte

“Strea di Nos Cura” (Star of our Garden)

The new history of an old Collection.

In these last days everyone in Aruba looked back and celebrated what we have become as a country since 25 years of an Apart Status (within the Dutch Kingdom).

In 1983 Fantastic Gardens which started as a small gardening company, obviously joined in the celebrations. Hand in hand with the Aruban community, she was one of the companies who had confidence in the “new” Aruba. The Aruban people embraced Fantastic Gardens from the start of her meager inception and gave her a permanent place in the community as “The Plant People.”

Today Fantastic Gardens and her director, Grace Maduro, along with her 80 employees have given this 25 year Status Apart celebration a very special place. Particularly because of the fact that nature and the culture of Aruba are so closely intertwined with each other.

The beautiful beaches on one hand but also the Cunucu with its grand collection of trees, houses and people. To put emphasis on this celebration, a separate logo and activities calendar replete with activities was prepared for the entire year. This, however, was not enough for Grace. She wanted to create or do something typical of Aruba, something tangible, that would ultimately benefit gardeners, and something that would be used in daily life while sharing an outdoor lifestyle with family and friends.

The result was a fantastic combined Kingdom’s project between Grace Maduro and Emilie van Gent of the Communication en Marketing Ad-



vice Bureau Isindil in the Netherlands with a lovely collection of new history. The designs, inspired by the Aruban cunucu house markings and based on the concept of home, family, friends and life and the star in the Aruban flag, and are decorated by “t Delftsche Huys in the Netherlands.

To understand why Grace Maduro has a personal relationship to our Status Aparte, we must go back a bit in time.

Grace is cognizant of the stories of her father’s experiences as one of the first Aruban heads of a government department in the sixties, when Aruba was still an integral part of the Netherlands Antilles, thus before Status Aparte in 1986. Then, as a team player in the Project Bureau for the development of the Status Aparte plans, Grace was able to witness first hand all the developments regarding the transition into the Status Aparte, which made a lasting impression on her.

During her next assignment as head of the Personnel’s Of-

fice at the Dr. Horacio Hospital, Grace experienced what it is like to work in an organization with various cultures. It was interesting to learn that within the Dutch Kingdom there are so many similarities as well as differences, from Friesland to Santa Cruz, from Limburg to Oranjestad, from Zeeland to San Nicolaas. To close the circle, Grace then worked at a Consultancy Bureau, and made frequent business trips to the former Antilles in preparation for the Status Aparte. These experiences along with the stories told to her of her father and her experience at the Consultancy Bureau bring back many memories.

People and her relations remain central in the process.

With this background in mind everything became very clear. Sitting at the family table in their tropical garden, Emilie van Gent, whom Grace has known since 2001 when Emilie did her internship at the Horacio Oduber Hospital (Aruba’s hospital), asked Grace if she had any ideas for a collection of typical Aruban pottery. Inspired by the old Cunucu houses, Grace thought it a splendid idea to use these Cunucu house designs set in their respective epochs. Emilie was delighted with the idea and thought it to be a good plan.

Emilie knew Aruba well because during the writing of her dissertation which centered on the government’s Monument policy, she spent considerable time working with a local Aruban newspaper, writing about life and living on Aruba. What’s more, Emilie is a great plant enthusiast, which is where her ties to Fantastic Gar-

dens emerged.

In 2010 she left Aruba and began her own business – Isindil.

Grace related, “I began at the end of 2010 as director of Fantastic Gardens, and there I met Emilie again. And, reminisced about our brainstorming at the family table in our tropical garden - inspired by the Cunucu houses, which form the basis for this story - and, based on a collection of photos, Emilie was able to produce and send me three new designs which I liked right off. However, we felt that the typical cunucu style had too much symbolic meaning of protection for these houses.

So, Emilie designed a flower pot based on the meaning of “Abundance. This resulted in a fourfold overflow with relevant colors, which symbolizes abundance, nature, family relations and life. These were intertwined with a radiant star, just as in the Aruban flag.

Out of love for nature and Aruba, this collection has gotten the name: “Strea di nos Cura” (Star of our Garden).

Grace loved the designs and asked Emilie to also do a series for wall hangings, which could serve as garden decorations. After some adjustments, they both felt that they should do more with them especially because of their radiant colors. This became the birth of breakfast serving set. They both have a passion for porcelain. Emilie was recently in Delft and while there she thought it would be an excellent idea to have the plates de-

corated in Holland like the Dutch do this.

The threads of history remain interwoven; the ties remain within the Kingdom and the positive relationship, and even in the celebration of our Status Aparte they are embedded.

Despite our differences we remain one community and we form part of a greater whole within the Dutch Kingdom.

The completion of this project is not just a completed project for Grace, but more the process of a new beginning.

They have chosen to first introduce the mugs. The other products will be introduced step by step.

Everything has just fallen into place, the personal experiences, her fathers input, nature, the culture, the symbols, the Aruban flag, the creativity and the collective working relationship within the Dutch Kingdom.

Fantastic Gardens, one of the greenest areas on Aruba, is celebrating together with her 80 employees “The Plant People,” founder Roy Maduro, director Grace Maduro, designer Emilie and the Aruban community, our 25 year Status Aparte anniversary.

The mugs upon which the nature and culture of Aruba comes together will be a constant proof of our 25 year history shared with all others who likewise are passionate about this old collection of our new history.

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Cricket: India play down W. Cup hysteria, Sri Lanka in Murali fear



Indian cricket fans wave their national flag after India beat Pakistan in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 semi-finals in Mohali, India.

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) – India were desperate on Thursday to prevent their World Cup campaign from being overwhelmed by a wave of national hysteria ahead of Saturday's final against Sri Lanka in Mumbai.

The semi-final win over arch-rivals Pakistan in Mohali sparked wild late-night celebrations, dominating front pages and leading TV news bulletins.

But captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni warned against complacency.

"There'll be plenty of things happening around us, like in the game against Pakistan, but what's important is not to get distracted. We all know what our jobs are as professional cricketers so we'll stick to that," insisted Dhoni.

Despite his pleadings, the Indian press wasn't listening.

"After this... the Cup is a bonus," said the headline on Mail Today which splashed a picture of the celebrating Indian team across its entire front page.

"India book Mumbai matinee," wrote the Hindustan Times.

Dhoni also praised master batsman Sachin Tendulkar whose 85 runs proved crucial in the 29-run win in Mohali even if he fell short once again of making 100 international centuries.

The superstar player will get another chance on Saturday in his home city of Mum-

bai.

"He batted really well and when he's there he makes it easy for the others to score because he guides them really well," said Dhoni.

"If you bat with Sachin for 15 games you have the kind of experience you'd have after 50 games."

Sri Lanka's Australian coach Trevor Bayliss insists that star bowler Muttiah Muralitharan, who has been suffering from hamstring and knee injuries, will be fit for the final.

However, Muralitharan, who'll retire after Saturday's game, skipped practice on Thursday at the Wankhede stadium.

Further doubts over his availability, as well as that of all-rounder Angelo Mathews, were raised when veteran seamer Chaminda Vaas, 37, and off-spinner Suraj Randiv were flown to Mumbai as cover.

Bayliss said that Muralitharan, who turns 39 next month, was determined to take the field in his last international match.

"Chances are good that Murali will play," the coach said. "He completed 10 overs in the semi-final, and such is the character of the man that he will play even with discomfort."

Vaas, who was part of the 1996 World Cup winning team, retired from Tests in July 2009 with 355 wickets.

He has collected 400 one-

day wickets but he hasn't played an ODI since August 2008.

Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi said the performance of his side's younger players had been among the positives of a World Cup campaign that ended with Wednesday's defeat at the hands of India.

And he said he hoped the game, watched by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistani counterpart Yousuf Raza Gilani, would be the catalyst for more games on Indian soil.

Pakistan have been unable to play matches at home since an armed attack on Sri Lanka's team bus in Lahore in 2009.

Now Afridi wants to see the restoration of normal cricket ties with India as part of his country's sporting rehabilitation.

"We want to play in India, we have shown them our hospitality in the past, I hope they do so too," the all-rounder said.

Pakistan cricket has been under a cloud since last year's 'spot-fixing' scandal in England which led to bans for new-ball duo Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif as well as former Test captain Salman Butt.

"It has been a difficult 10 months for us," Afridi said.

"We had a rickety team coming into the World Cup and considering that it has been a good performance."



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Adriano promises great things for Corinthians



Brazilian footballer Adriano(R), wearing his new Corinthians club jersey, is honored by former footballer Ronaldo during his official presentation at Corinthians.

SAO PAULO (AFP) – Brazilian striker Adriano promised to make his mark back in his homeland after joining Sao Paulo-based Corinthians on a 15-month deal after an unsuccessful spell with Roma in Italy.

"I come to Corinthians in order to succeed -- and I want to win back my place in the Brazil side," the 29-year-old forward told reporters.

The burly, left-footed striker, nicknamed 'The Emperor', left Roma after just a handful of appearances this season, despite having signed a three-year contract only last summer.

With Corinthians he will earn 500,000 reais a month (\$306,500), including bonuses, which is around 100 times the average wage in his country.

The club will hope for a solid return from a player who has had a chequered career since starting out with Flamengo.

In 2001 he moved to Inter Milan but was farmed out for loan spells with Fiorentina, Parma and then Sao Paulo.

Adriano's spell at Parma was largely successful but he arrived at Sao Paulo under a cloud after Inter lost patience

with his erratic form and penchant for partying.

In 2009-10 he enjoyed a more productive season with Rio club Flamengo, prompting Roma to chance their arm on another move to Italy.

But that did not work out and they rescinded his contract earlier this month.

"I will always have determination and desire -- I always like to get stuck into work," said Adriano, who has fought problems with alcohol and is currently battling to shake off a shoulder injury.

"Anyone who works with me knows what I can do on the pitch. I just need to get back into the swing of things and the fans will be happy."

"I want to get over that so I can be the Adriano of old."

Adriano had hoped that Flamengo might make the call to bring him back on board after he averaged more than a goal every other game last season, but no offer was forthcoming.

"I had to forget about what happened at Flamengo and I have done so," said Adriano, who added that he had been given some moral support by Ronaldo, who hung up his boots earlier this year after finishing up at Corinthians.

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Bobcats lose Przybilla for rest of season

CHARLOTTE (AFP) - The Charlotte Bobcats, clinging to NBA playoff hopes, Thursday announced backup center Joel Przybilla will miss the rest of the NBA season with pain in his right knee.

The Bobcats said Przybilla will undergo another procedure to remove wires inserted in the knee after he twice tore his patella tendon.

Przybilla has not played for Charlotte since March 7. He was acquired from Portland in a February 24 trade that sent Gerald Wallace to the Trail Blazers.

The Bobcats now have just one healthy center, Kwame Brown.

However, coach Paul Silas

said it's unlikely they will waive Przybilla and ink a big man since any new player wouldn't be eligible for the playoffs.

Silas also said he didn't expect Stephen Jackson, Tyrus Thomas or Shaun Livingston to play Friday at Orlando due to nagging injuries.

The injuries are a setback for a Bobcats team that is suddenly back in playoff contention.

After falling three games behind Indiana for the Eastern Conference's eighth playoff berth, Charlotte have moved back within one game of the final spot thanks to a four-game winning streak.

Ex-ref who attacked Wilkins free on bond

ATLANTA (AFP) - A former NBA referee charged with attacking Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins as he worked as a TV commentator at a Hawks game was freed on bond Thursday, police said.

Atlanta police spokesman Carlos Campos says 36-year-old Rashan S. Michel was released early Thursday on \$1,000 cash bond after being charged with two counts of simple battery.

Police said Michel was angry with the former player over a clothing bill.

Campos said Michel confronted the former NBA star as Wilkins was conducting a live broadcast after Atlanta's 85-82 win over Orlando.

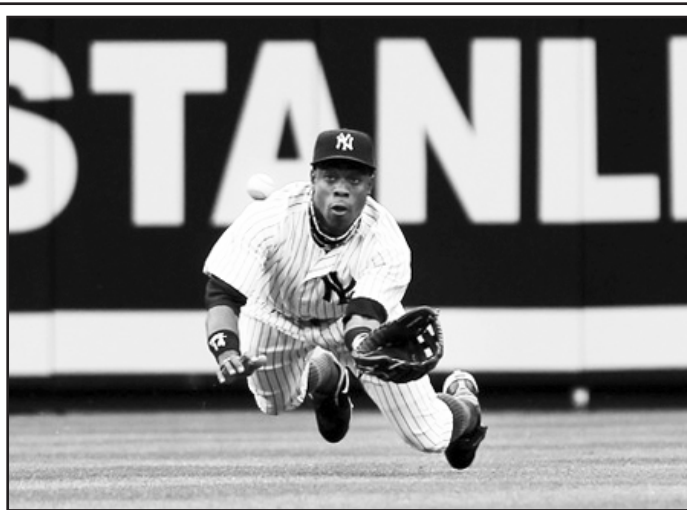
Wilkins stepped away from his seat on press row and was attacked by Michel, who claims Wilkins owes him between \$15,000 and \$17,000 for suits.

Wilkins was not injured. A police booking photograph shows Michel with a welt under his left eye.

Nine time all-star Wilkins is

considered one of the best dunkers in the history of the NBA and was inducted into the basketball's Hall of Fame in 2006.

He often sits courtside while doing television commentary for the Hawks.



Curtis Granderson #14 of the New York Yankees dives to catch the ball for an out in the first inning against the Detroit Tigers on Opening Day at Yankee Stadium on March 31, 2011 in New York City. The Yankees went on to win the game 6-3 in the first regular-season game played in the Bronx in March.

Crosby says return to skating 'small step'

TAMPA (AFP) - Canadian Olympic hero Sidney Crosby, sidelined for almost three months with a concussion, said Thursday's return to skating with his Penguins team-mates was a "small step" in his recovery.

Crosby last played in an NHL game on January 5.

He participated in Pittsburgh's no-contact skate Thursday as the team prepared for the night's game against Tampa Bay.

"It was a lot of fun to be back out there," Crosby said. "It's just a small step, with a lot to go."

Crosby has not yet been cleared for full practice and the Penguins have said they do not expect him back in the NHL regular season.

A return to competition in time for the Stanley Cup playoffs has not been ruled out.

"It was good to see him out there," Penguins coach Dan Bylsma said.

"There's actually no expectations on when the next step after this one would be. He'd still have to return to a full practice, and then return to contact."

"Those are two things that

are down the road, and both of those, there's no timetable for either one."

Crosby, who scored the gold-medal goal for Canada in over-time against the United States in last year's Vancouver Winter Olympics, resumed individual workouts on March 14 and said he hasn't had any setbacks.

"It's the same thing with every step, make sure that you don't get symptoms," Crosby said.

"Obviously, it's just one day. Try and get through each step."

When he was hurt, Crosby had 32 goals and 66 points. Although he played just 41 games, he remains the Pen-

guins' leading scorer this season.

Crosby took a blind-side hit to the head from the Washington's David Steckel during the Winter Classic outdoor game on January 1.

He initially felt just soreness in his neck, but by January 5 he was feeling worse.

He still played that night's game against the lightning, and was checked into the boards by Tampa Bay's Victor Hedman.

"It probably didn't help, that's for sure," Crosby said of Hedman's hit.

Hedman has said he doesn't think his hit caused Crosby's head injury, but said he was happy to see Crosby's recovery progressing.



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Sharapova reaches Miami final, Federer into semis



Sharapova returns a shot to Azarenka

MIAMI (AFP) - Maria Sharapova rallied to reach the women's final of the WTA and ATP Masters hardcourt tournament here Thursday, while Roger Federer barely worked at all to reach the men's semi-finals.

Sharapova, seeded 16th, overcame her slow start by winning 11 straight games en route to a 3-6, 6-0, 6-2 semi-final victory over Germany's Andrea Petkovic.

In Saturday's final, Sharapova will be seeking her first title since May 2010, and her first in Miami.

Federer spent just 10 minutes on court, winning three games before opponent Gilles Simon retired with a stiff neck.

Federer, seeded third, won 12 of the 15 points against France's Simon, who talked with a trainer during a changeover before conceding the match and shaking hands

and couldn't move," Federer said. "It's obviously disappointing when it happens in front of an audience. You get booed off the court -- that's rough. It's not the way you want to move on, but look, I'll take those because they happen quite rarely."

Federer next faces either top-seeded Spaniard Rafael Nadal or seventh-seeded Czech Tomas Berdych.

Federer beat Nadal for the title here in 2005, the last time they played each other in the United States.

Sharapova, who finished runner-up here in 2005 and 2006, missed the tournament from 2008-2010 because of injuries.

She got off to a shaky start as she double-faulted three times in dropping her first service game.

But as the match wore on, Sharapova trimmed back her errors and returned Petrovic's serve aggressively.

Petkovic had 11 game points in the second set but couldn't convert any of them.

with Federer.

Disappointed fans booed as Simon departed the court.

"He told me he woke up this morning with a stiff neck

Ishikawa to chip in earnings for disaster relief



TOKYO (AFP) - Japanese teen golfer Ryo Ishikawa has vowed to donate all of his tournament earnings in 2011 to help survivors of the earth-

quake and tsunami which devastated his country's Pacific coast.

The 19-year-old, now in Augusta preparing for next

week's US Masters, told Japanese media that he would also donate 100,000 yen (\$1,200) for every birdie he makes.

"I feel thrilled. My goal is 200 million yen (\$2.4 million)," Ishikawa said of his relief donations.

His prize earnings from the overseas majors will be added to the fund, including the Masters in which he will aim to make the cut for the first time in three starts.

Ishikawa, who has sponsor and other commercial deals with big companies including Panasonic and Toyota, said: "I have enough money to spend for my golf. I still have savings."

"I believe this is the most

positive way for me to spend money," said Ishikawa, who consulted his banker father and sponsors before announcing his plans to donate the money.

Ishikawa has earned more than 100 million yen (850,000 euros) in each of the past three seasons since he turned professional in January 2008 aged 16.

He finished third on the Japanese tour money list last year with 151 million yen (1.28 million euros), sinking 341 birdies on the way.

Ishikawa also said he planned to tour the disaster-hit Tohoku region in the north of the main island of Honshu to encourage victims.

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